

2903 North 73rd Street,
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53210
May 27, 1968

Prof. Joshua Lederberg,
c/o Stanford University,
California.

Dear Professor Lederberg:

After reading the attached article on "melanopenia", it seems to me that there must be some connection between melanopenia and the pigmentation trouble known as "vitiligo", with which I and many like me have been afflicted. White spots first began appearing on my hands when I was twenty, and the condition has become steadily worse in the ensuing thirty-seven years. My Mother was afflicted the same year I was - she was forty-eight at the time - and had it when she died at the age of eighty-three.

My purpose in writing to you is to find out if you know of any research on this problem which has produced results that may be of help to us unfortunate vitiligans. This year the pigment in the skin of my face is affected, resulting in white spots around my eyes, and you can understand how freakish a person feels when exposure to the summer sun causes what pigment is left to darken and become increasingly conspicuous.

I have also had diabetes for the last fourteen years, and must have a sample of my blood checked periodically to test the blood sugar level. I am due for a check-up during the next month, and the blood sample taken by my doctor will be sent to Madison to be evaluated. Since I have this vitiligo and it seems to have some connection with blood cells, it occurred to me that perhaps you might be interested in examining the blood sample in relation to your theory on melanopenia. To the best of my knowledge there is no negro blood in my family.

I certainly hope that somehow something can be done to help present and future victims of vitiligo.

Respectfully yours,

Gladys Koenig
(Mrs. Max Koenig)